

include the sum of the duty and interests of man. A serious reader is constrained to feel that either thews is too much in *that* book, or too little in theirs. He will perceive that, in the inspired book, the moral principles are intimately interwoven with all those doctrines which could not have been known but through revelation. He will find also in this superior book, a vast number of ideas avowedly designed to interest the *affections* in favour of all moral principles and virtues. The "quickeningspirit," thus breathed among what might else be dry and lifeless, is drawn from considerations of the divine mercy, the compassion of the Redeemer, the assurance of aid from heaven in the difficult strife to *be* what the best principles prescribe, the relationship subsisting between good men on earth and those who are departed ; and other kindred topics, quite out of the range to which the mere moral preceptors appear to hold themselves limited. The system of morals, as placed in the temperature of such considerations, has the character and effect of a different zone. Thus, while any given virtue, equally prescribed in the treatise of the moral philosopher and the Christian code, would in mere definition be the same in both, the manner in which it bears on the heart and conscience must be greatly different.

It is another difference also of momentous consequence, if it be found that the Christian doctrine declares the virtues of a good man not to be the cause of his acceptance with God, and that the philosophic moralists disclaim any other. On the whole it must be concluded, that there cannot but be something very defective in that theory of morality which makes so slight an acknowledgment of the religion of Christ, and takes so little of its peculiar character. The philosophers place the religion in the relation of a diminutive satellite to the sphere of moral interests ; useful as throwing a few rays on that side of it on which the solar light of human wisdom could not directly shine ; but that it can impart a vital warmth, or claims to be acknowledged paramount in dignity and influence, some of them seem not to have a suspicion.

No doubt, innumerable reasonings and conclusions may be advanced on moral subjects which shall be *true* on a foundation of their own, equally in the presence of the evangelical system and in its absence. Independently of that system, it were easy to illustrate the utility of virtue,